



Britain's Civil Defence organisation is growing steadily in strength and efficiency. But how much do you personally know about it?

A REPORT ON THE STATE OF CIVIL DEFENCE TODAY

EACH AUTUMN, throughout the country, Civil Defence chiefs ask for more volunteers to man its various divisions. Why do we need Civil Defence? What could it do? Is it worthwhile?

The Government has made detailed scientific studies of the probable effects if a nuclear attack was made on Britain. The picture is a grim one. Parts of the country—perhaps large parts—would suffer enormous and immediate devastation. The toll of human life would be on an almost unthinkable scale.

The actual number of casualties would depend upon the weight and distribution of the attack, and other unpredictable factors, such as the weather. But it is the firm conclusion of leading scientists that large areas would escape devastation. And millions of people would survive.

Facing up to facts

What would happen to them all? How would they manage without the necessities that we take for granted in peace-time? These are questions that any responsible government must ask itself, so long as there is the slightest risk of war. In Britain we have done more than ask the questions: we have gone a long way towards finding answers. Nor are we alone in making civil defence preparations. Many other countries, whether or not they possess nuclear arms, are doing so.

For convenience, all preparations against nuclear attack can be lumped together under the simple title "Civil Defence". They involve almost every aspect of national life. And, since we cannot know exactly where an attack might fall, or how heavy it might be, they have to be on a national scale.

The reason why

No civil defence preparations could do anything to reduce the inevitable destruction of a nuclear attack. They are not intended to do so.

Civil Defence is a humanitarian operation. Without it, more people—perhaps millions more—would die than need have done. More would suffer from injury and illness than need have done.

There would be little chance for the millions of survivors to fight the long struggle back to a reasonably safe and ordered way of living.

Like the ship's lifeboat, or the pilot's parachute, Civil Defence is an insurance policy taken out and paid for now to provide vital relief for those who would survive a nuclear attack.

What would happen?

Whatever targets were chosen, a nuclear attack on this country would create large tracts of total devastation. Electricity, gas and water supplies would be disrupted, transport dislocated and the telephone system disorganised. All



PART OF THE NATION-WIDE SYSTEM OF EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS.

this damage would be immediate. On top of it would be the hazard of radiation, desperately dangerous at first, but diminishing as the days passed.

If you imagine Britain divided into a number of undamaged patches (some as large as several counties), around which are rings of more or less complete devastation, you will have some idea of what the country would look like after an attack. Inside these undamaged areas there might or might not be power supplies. But there would certainly be transport and food. In some places, people would be able to move about freely. In others, radioactive fall-out would make all movement impossible for a time.

Britain would not be helpless

It is probable that all you have seen of Civil Defence is the volunteer unit in your locality. And vital it is too. But behind the volunteer Civil Defence services is a complex organisation covering the whole country with a closely woven mesh of emergency administrative and technical services and their communications. Some of these are for giving warning of attack and of fall-out. Others form the chain of control which would be vital both during and after attack.



THE ENTRANCE TO AN UNDERGROUND ROYAL OBSERVER CORPS POST.

Assessing the situation

Not far from you, wherever you are at this moment, there is a small concrete pill-box buried below ground. It contains instruments for plotting the position and height of explosions, measuring their power and the intensity of radiation from fall-out. There is one of these Royal Observer Corps posts every 5/10 miles—

more than 1,400 of a planned 1,500 have already been completed. Each is linked to one of 29 Royal Observer Corps Group Headquarters which in turn report to one of six Sector Operations Centres. This organisation will originate warnings of air attack and of fall-out to the public and pass information to the regional headquarters, and to similar headquarters in Scotland, which form part of the emergency chain of control.

How would we get organised?

Parliament has made provision over the years for these preparations. The emergency chain of control, extending from the headquarters from which Regional Commissioners would operate in a war emergency to the wartime headquarters of local authorities, is an essentially civilian organisation. Its task would be to control life-saving operations and, after attack, to marshal surviving resources and vital public services, and to see that they were put to the best use. It is linked with emergency arrangements for food, water, power, oil, medical supplies and transport.

Information would stream in, through local and other authorities, from hundreds of Civil Defence and observation posts. From some posts there would only be a grim silence. But this, too, would be important in realistically assessing the situation, good or bad.

It all depends on them

It is the men and women of the Civil Defence Corps who would provide the vital information. They would man the control organisation in the cities and counties. And they would carry out many of the most important jobs.

Every year Civil Defence stages hundreds of exercises. The men and women of Civil Defence know exactly what they would have to do, the size of the jobs they would have to tackle, and the dangers they would have to face. There are over 500,000 of them, doing spare time work that's not easy and may never be needed. Why do they do it?

Because they know that good intentions are not enough. Because they'd rather be among the helpers than the helpless.

Isn't that where you'd rather be, too?

10 VITAL POINTS IN THE CIVIL DEFENCE PLANS FOR BRITAIN

- 1 War-time regional headquarters have been provided and equipped in England and Wales, and similar centres in Scotland. From them, an emergency chain of control extends to the local authorities.
- 2 For essential needs—food and agriculture, water supply, electricity, gas, oil, coal, transport and shipping, broadcasting and communications—there are emergency organisations to link closely with the emergency control structure.
- 3 A chain of self-supporting broadcasting transmitters is being built.
- 4 Important telephone cables are being re-routed away from the big population centres, and special radio links installed to bridge gaps that might be caused by bombs.
- 5 A national warning system has been installed to give the public a clear warning of any attack.
- 6 Over 1,400 of a planned 1,500 underground Royal Observer Corps posts have been equipped with instruments for measuring nuclear explosions and fall-out.
- 7 Alternative water supplies from deep wells have been pinpointed. Stand-by water pumping and piping equipment is being installed.
- 8 Essential foods have been stockpiled.
- 9 Strategically sited around the coast, away from likely target areas, emergency moorings have been prepared and cargo equipment stockpiled to handle shipments of food and other emergency supplies.
- 10 Reserve supplies of fuel oil and medical equipment have been stockpiled.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

WARDEN A job for men and women who are 'born leaders'. A Warden needs to know his district and its people like the back of his hand. He is the front-line link in Civil Defence's chain of command.

RESCUE A team job for physically tough, intelligent men who can work skilfully, without wasting time, in dangerous conditions.

HEADQUARTERS This needs quick-witted people who can sum up a situation and act on it. Some Headquarters staff man mobile headquarters; some operate radio and field telephones. Others provide and assess technical and scientific information.

AMBULANCE and FIRST AID They provide immediate medical care before doctors and surgeons take over. If you have courage and compassion, this could be your place in Civil Defence.

WELFARE Food, shelter, clothing, information, care and kindness—the frightened and the homeless would need these just as much as medical aid. The Welfare Sections of Civil Defence are there to provide them.

AUXILIARY FIRE SERVICE Trained to fight even the terrible fires that would rage after a nuclear attack, the A.F.S. is for the strongest and bravest men but there are some jobs in it for women too.

INDUSTRIAL CIVIL DEFENCE This is to industry what the Civil Defence Corps is to the nation. It is organised in much the same way as the Corps. If there is an industrial Civil Defence unit where you work, there's a place for you in it.

THE ROYAL OBSERVER CORPS The volunteer men and women of the R.O.C. are controlled by R.A.F. Fighter Command. Their most important job would be to man the network of warning and monitoring posts, and flash information back to H.Q.s in Britain and in the N.A.T.O. countries.

WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICE FOR CIVIL DEFENCE Many members of the W.V.S. have enrolled in the Welfare Section. For women who aren't able to join the Civil Defence services, the W.V.S. offers a wonderful opportunity to learn how to protect themselves and their families in an emergency.



AT A CIVIL DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS: MODERN METHODS AND SKILLED PERSONNEL.

In one of these sections there is a job that you can do. To be in Civil Defence means giving up some of your spare time to learning the basic, scientific facts of nuclear war, and training for the role you would play if war should ever come. What you will be asked to do won't always be easy. But it will be important. You will find interest, companionship, and the satisfaction of doing a vital job.

For further information about the various sections of Civil Defence and details of how you can join, write for a booklet to:

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